

3 monitoring a request signal from a first device for data on a second device in the network,  
 4 the request signal including a user identification parameter;

5 determining whether the access to the data requires a credit value;

6 determining whether a user identified by the user identification parameter is permitted

7 access to the data;

8 detecting a pre-set credit parameter in the request signal; and

9 comparing the pre-set credit parameter with a pre-determined value to determine  
 10 permission to access the data.

1 *sub c2* 30. (New) A method of controlling access of claim 29, further comprising providing  
 2 access to the data in response to the user having permission to access the data and the pre-set  
 3 credit parameter being greater than or equal to a predetermined value.

1 31. (New) A method of controlling access of claim 29, further comprising preventing  
 2 access to the second device in response to the pre-set credit parameter being less than or equal to  
 3 a predetermined value.

1 32. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising re-directing the data signal to  
 2 a third device in response to the pre-set credit parameter being less than a predetermined value,  
 3 the third device allowing for a re-setting of the pre-set credit parameter to a new pre-set credit  
 4 value comprising a value greater than or equal to the predetermined value.

1 33. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the predetermined value is one from a  
 2 group comprising a positive monetary value, a positive time value, a bandwidth value, a quality  
 3 of service value, and a content rating.

1 34. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising allowing access to one from a  
 2 group comprised of voice data, video data, and a real-time application in response to at least one  
 3 of the bandwidth value or quality of service value being greater than or equal to a threshold  
 4 value.

1 35. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising providing access to a second  
 2 data that does not require a credit value in response to one of the pre-set credit value being less  
 3 than or equal to the pre-determined value or the user not having permission to access the data  
 4 corresponding to the request signal.

1 36. (New) A network-based billing method for providing access to resources on a  
 2 network, the method comprising:  
 3 monitoring a data signal from a device on a network, the data signal including a request  
 4 for a resource, the resource including a value parameter;  
 5 identifying a cost for accessing the resource;  
 6 associating a user identification with the data signal;  
 7 identifying a credit balance for the user identification; and  
 8 comparing the credit balance with the cost to determine access to the resource; and

1 37. (New) The network-based billing method of claim 36, further comprising  
 2 allowing access to the resource in response to the credit balance being less than or equal to the  
 3 cost preventing access to the resource.

1 38. (New) The network-based billing method of claim 36, further comprising  
 2 allowing access to the resource in response to the credit balance being greater than or equal to the  
 3 cost preventing access to the resource.

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39. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising re-directing the data signal to a second resource in response to the credit balance being less than the cost, the second resource configured to allow for increasing the credit balance.

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40. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising providing access to a second resource having no cost in response to the credit balance being less than the cost.

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41. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the cost comprises one from a group comprising a monetary value, a quality of service value, a bandwidth value, a time value, and a content rating value.

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42. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising passing the data signal to a second device having the resource.